

REMARKS

The applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the Office Action dated March 10, 2005. In light of specific objections raised by the Examiner, Claim 2 and Claim 33 have been amended for the sole purpose of correcting typographical errors. Claims 1-2, 13-20, and 31-36 are rejected and remain pending. Claims 3-12 and 21-30 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 37-44 have been previously withdrawn. Claims 1 and 19 are the only independent claims. In view of the amendments and remarks, the applicants respectfully assert that the objections and rejections to the remaining claims are now moot, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-2, 13-20, 31-36 are currently rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,329,005, Braginetz et al ("Braginetz"). The Braginetz reference has been incorporated by reference in the specification of the applicants' pending patent application. Braginetz discloses a rectangular receiver designed to engage an interchangeable test adapter (ITA) that carries corresponding electrical contacts. The rectangular receiver includes two lever-driven sliding cam plates, one on each of the left and right inner faces of the receiver. Each sliding cam plate includes a profiled cam slot. The receiver also includes stationary hanger plates positioned directly adjacent to the cam slots of each of the sliding cam plates. A portion of the stationary hanger plate projects horizontally from the receiver.

When the electrical contacts carried by an ITA are to be brought into engagement with corresponding electrical contacts in the receiver, rolls on each the left and right sides of the ITA

are initially placed so that they rest partially on the respective stationary hanger plates and partially in the profiled cam slots of the sliding cam plates. When a lever that drives the sliding cam plates is actuated, the action of the profiled cam slots against the rollers of the ITA forces the ITA to move inwardly or outwardly, towards or away from the receiver, depending on the direction of the lever actuation. Therefore, the motion of the lever and the consequent motion of the sliding cam plates causes the electrical contacts carried by the ITA and those carried by the receiver to move into or out of engagement with one another.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that the Braginetz reference discloses “two or more hanging structures 39, one of the hanger structures being mounted adjacent to each of the left and right cam plates for sliding movement between an outwardly projecting position and a retracted position” (Office Action, page 3, emphasis added). The applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner regarding the statement that Braginetz discloses a hanger structure mounted for sliding movement between an outwardly projected position and a retracted position, as required by both independent Claims 1 and 19.

Although, the Braginetz reference does employ the use of slide plates, which the Examiner has equated to the slidingly mounted left and right cam plates (also required in both Claims 1 and 19), the Braginetz reference does not teach, suggest or disclose “one of the hanger structures being mounted adjacent to each of the left and right cam plates for sliding movement between an outwardly projecting position and a retracted position,” as required by Claim 1 and 19.

The Examiner has referenced the stationary hanger plates 39 of the Braginetz reference, as disclosing the hanger structure limitation of Claims 1 and 19. However, in the Detailed

Description section of the Braginetz patent it states that the “[s]tationary hanger plates 39 having upwardly facing hangers 39’ are secured by bolts 40 rigidly to the outer walls 31 and 31’ and the frame sides of the receiver” (Col. 2, lines 65-68 emphasis added.) Throughout the rest of the Braginetz specification the hanger plates 39 are referred to as the “fixed hanger plates 39.” (e.g., Col. 3, lines 5-6, 14, and 43; Col. 4 lines 29 and 59; and Col. 7 lines 11, 13-14, and 42).

Unfortunately, horizontally extending stationary hanger plates, such as those described in Braginetz may cause problems, including but not limited to, creating size constraints for electromagnetic shielding enclosures of an ITA, by requiring they essentially be no wider than the engaging portion of the ITA because a wide shielding enclosure may contact the horizontally projecting ends of the stationary hanger plates and prevent the ITA from being brought into engagement with the receiver. Additionally, stationary hanger plates make it difficult to rest an ITA in the hangers without actually engaging the mechanism. Such difficulties relating to the use of stationary hanger plates, as well as other difficulties, are alleviated, at least in part, with the sliding hanger structures of independent Claims 1 and 19. Thus, the Braginetz patent does not teach, suggest, or disclose a hanging structure “being mounted adjacent to each of the left and right cam plates for sliding movement between an outwardly projecting position and a retracted position,” as required by Claim 1 and 19.

For the above stated reasons, the applicants respectfully assert that what is described in independent Claims 1 is not anticipated by Braginetz. Therefore, the applicants respectfully assert that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. In addition, Claims 2-18, which ultimately depend from Claim 1, are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed with regards to Claim 1, and further in view of the novel features recited therein.

Additionally, Independent Claim 19 contains the same limitations of independent Claim 1 as discussed above. Therefore, the applicants respectfully assert that the same reasons Braginetz does not anticipate Claim 1 also explain why Braginetz does not anticipate Claim 19. Further, Claims 20-36, which ultimately depend from Claim 19, are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed with regards to Claim 19, and further in view of the novel features recited therein.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 17, 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Braginetz. In light of the above arguments relating to the distinctions of the Braginetz over independent Claim 1, of which Claim 17 ultimately depends, and independent Claim 19, of which Claim 35 ultimately depends, the rejection of these claims based on §103(a) as being unpatentable over Braginetz is now moot. Accordingly, Claims 17 and 35 both are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons the respective independent Claims from which they depend are currently allowable.

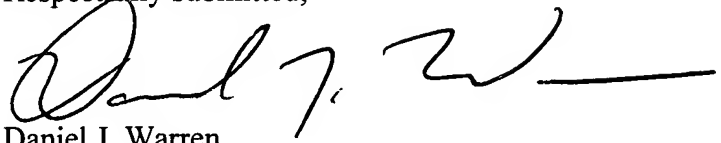
Conclusion

The applicants believe they have responded to each matter raised by the Examiner. Allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited. Any questions may be directed to the undersigned at 404.853.8028. It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR

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§1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby
authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-5029.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Warren", followed by a horizontal line.

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